

REMARKS

Double Patenting

Claims 23, 24, 27-32 and 36-45 are provisionally rejected under the judicially created doctrine of obviousness-type double patenting.

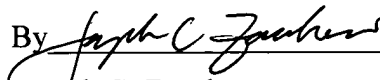
As stated by the Examiner, this is a provisional obviousness-type double patenting rejection because the conflicting claims have not in fact been patented. If this provisional double patenting rejection is the only remaining rejection in the application, Applicants request that the Examiner withdraw the rejection and allow the application to issue as a patent (See MPEP §804(I)(B)). Applicants will then consider filing a Terminal Disclaimer or take any other action deemed necessary in the copending application.

CONCLUSION

In view of the above amendments and remarks, it is believed that all claims are in condition for allowance, and it is respectfully requested that the application be passed to issue. If the Examiner feels that a telephone conference would expedite prosecution of this case, the Examiner is invited to call the undersigned.

Respectfully submitted,

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